

## STRIKE ORDER STALLS--LABOR CRISIS IS NEAR

## CONFEREES WANT U. S. DELEGATES AT LABOR MEET

Italian Representative At International Confab Invites Organizations To Send Representatives—Sec. Wilson is Temporary Conference President

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The international labor conference, which formally opened today, took steps to obtain the virtual participation of the United States in the conference although congress had decided against the appointment of delegates prior to ratification of the peace treaty.

On motion of Baron Mayor des Planches, Italian government delegate, United States employers' and workers' organizations were invited unanimously to send representatives to take part in the conference.

Labor Secretary As President While no attempt was made to obtain the appointment of governmental delegates, as such action would have been in conflict with decision of congress, United States will be represented in the conference through Secretary of Labor Wilson, who opened today's session and probably will continue as conference president. Mr. Wilson will be appointed by the organizing committee as permanent chairman during the period of organization at the meeting tomorrow and no objection is expected.

Secretary Wilson said he would accept the nomination in view of his interpretation that the organization of the conference can be completed until the league of nations is created, and that the United States is charged by the Versailles treaty with the organization of the conference.

The American Federation of Labor and the Chamber of Commerce of the United States were invited by the organizing committee to name the workers and employer delegates, respectively, to represent this country. Samuel Gompers, president of the federation, will represent the workers. Decision as to the choice of the chamber of commerce will await the arrival tomorrow of Homer L. Ferguson, president.

Hope For Wilson's Recovery Regret at the inability of President Wilson to attend and hope for his early recovery was expressed in a resolution offered by Baron des Planches and adopted by the conference.

The question of the admission of German and Austrian delegates was not taken up today, but probably will be the first item on the program tomorrow.

## BODIES FROM COAL BARGE ARE WASHED ASHORE AT SODUS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] SODUS, N. Y., Oct. 29.—Four bodies from the wreck of the steam coal barge Homer Warren of Toronto, which foundered off Pulgeville in the heavy gale of Tuesday, washed ashore today. A receipt for the bodies was issued in the name of Alex. Talbot, who was on one of the bodies. No means of identification for any of the others have been found.

The barge, which left yesterday for Toronto, its home port, was commanded by Capt. William Stalker with a crew of eight.

## Would Make Liquor Tax Prohibitive

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Oct. 29.—Immediate introduction of legislation providing for a prohibitive tax on liquor perhaps as high as \$500,000 to prevent the sale of intoxicants between the date of ratification of the peace treaty and January 16, 1920, when constitutional prohibition goes into effect, will be asked today by congress by the anti-liquor league, according to E. H. Cherrington, secretary of the league's executive committee in an announcement tonight. He declared that there was little doubt that such a measure, if introduced, would pass.

Existing and impending labor troubles would aid the passage of such a measure, he asserted. The amount of liquor in the United States he estimated at 65,000,000 gallons.

He stated that in its proposal to lead leaders in congress, the league would set \$100,000 at the minimum figure for the prohibitive tax.

A conference of lay leaders will be held in Washington at once, he said.

## Coal Production Must Continue Says U. S.--Reduced Prices In Sight--Strikers To Be Punished

## UNION OFFICERS DISBAND TO TAKE UP STRIKE WORK

Reiterate Contention That Operators Alone Are At Fault—Want New Wage Agreement Only—Give "Final Statement"

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Oct. 29.—After pronouncing a strike of bituminous coal miners inevitable and blaming the operators for forcing a walk-out, the miners' union today issued a statement in which it reiterated its contention that the operators alone are at fault and that the miners want a new wage agreement only—give "final statement."

Only a new wage agreement to replace the one which they claim expired with the war emergency is wished by the union, its leaders emphasizing that a call from the mine owners for a joint meeting would find the organization ready to negotiate on any or all of the demands formulated at the Cleveland convention of the union.

## Give "Final" Statement

These and other points in the union's position were set forth in a statement prepared by a committee of the conference and adopted by unanimous vote. The statement was characterized by the "final word" from union forces and John L. Lewis, acting president, and other officials referred questions to the statement as embodying everything that could be said and as answering all rumors as to motives actuating the miners.

The statement brought out that no communication had been received from the national administration and that the union had knowledge of President Wilson's attitude toward the strike only through newspaper accounts.

It combated the statement that the strike was illegal by asserting that the right to strike or quit work had been upheld by the courts and that in leaving their jobs the men would exercise a constitutional prerogative.

Charges that the miners were endeavoring to force nationalization of the mines were indignantly denied and again the language of the statement that "all of their demands were incorporated in the wage proposal" was quoted.

Emphasis was laid on the last sentence of the statement as follows:

"The issue has been made and if it must be settled upon the field of industrial battle, the responsibility rests fairly and squarely upon the coal barons alone."

Ready To Negotiate The word "if" was explained as significant of the readiness to negotiate. While conceding that there was no way of preventing the strike, the union's spokesmen, Ellis Searles, argued that with the strike in actual effect the operators demand that the strike order be withdrawn as a condition precedent to negotiation, was automatically wiped out.

"We fully expect this difficulty to be settled as all difficulties in the coal mining industry have been settled for 30 years—by direct negotiations between the owners and workers," he said. "When that point will be reached we do not attempt to say. But the strike will be so big and have such far-reaching effects that we do not believe it can last very long before a crisis is reached."

Tomorrow the executive board of the union will meet to clear up a big batch of business incidental to the strike and various routine affairs which have been accumulating.

Will Close Mines? ST. LOUIS, Oct. 29.—Thomas T. Brewster, chairman of the scale committee of the Mine Operators' association, tonight reiterated that the mine owners would make no attempt to operate the mines without government aid after the strike became effective and re-asserted that the operators would reopen negotiations with the miners if the strike order were rescinded pending settlement of differences.

Mr. Brewster denied a report that the operators had called a meeting at Cleveland to discuss the prospective strike.

AGAIN APPEALS TO U. S.

LONDON, Oct. 29.—Diplomats here assert that another strong appeal has been addressed to the United States by Signor Tittoni, the Italian foreign minister, regarding the Fiume situation. It is added, that the British and French governments are using their offices to ease the rather critical situation.

## Steps Taken By Government to Prevent Disaster Briefly Told

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The government, confronted with refusal of the miners' organization to call off the strike of 500,000 soft coal workers ordered for Friday night, moved swiftly today to protect the people from great disaster.

First of many steps to deal with a situation, admittedly critical, probably will be these:

Ample protection for miners willing to remain on the job as urged by President Wilson.

Revival of the fuel administration, armed with full war time powers, to prevent hoarding and profiteering.

Allocation and distribution of coal to homes, railroads and essential industries.

Efforts to bring the strike to a speedy end through mediation.

The government, however, will make no efforts to bring about indictment of officers of the United Mine Workers of America, who called the strike on charges of conspiracy to reduce production of a necessary product.

Government officials said tonight that reports from confidential sources show that not all of the miners would strike, that public sentiment was against the walkout at the beginning of winter and that duration of the strike would be brief.

## ATTORNEY GENERAL EXPLAINS POSITION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Declares Federal Authorities Have Power, Under Law To Deal With Impending Strike—Holds Walkout As Illegal—Order Issued Without Consulting Workers—Emergency War Statutes Are Still Effective

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The position of the government in the impending coal strike was announced tonight as follows:

"There can be no doubt that the government has the power in the public interest, under the law, to deal with the projected strike of the bituminous coal miners, without infringing upon the recognized right of men in any line of industry to work when they please and quit work when they please."

The illegality of this strike can and will be established without in any way impairing the general right to strike, and the general right to strike is not in issue in any sense whatever in the present situation. This is true because the circumstances differentiate this case from the case of any other strike that has ever taken place in the country. It does not follow that every strike is lawful merely because the right to strike is recognized to exist.

Every case must stand upon its own merits and be governed by its own facts. Therefore, when the president said in his statement last Saturday that 'such a strike in such circumstances' is not only unjustifiable but unlawful reference was made only to the conditions in the impending situation.

Did Not Terminate Orders "The proposed strike was ordered in a manner, for a purpose and with a necessary effect, which taken together put it outside the pale of the law. After the war began, the production of fuel was regarded as one of the subjects of such peculiar public importance as to justify a special statutory enactment. The fuel administration was created to supervise the subject and matters of wages as well as prices were considered and sanctioned by the fuel administration. After the cessation of hostilities the fuel administration suspended certain of its orders, but did not terminate them, and they are subject to re-instatement at any time upon the president's order and the statute under which the orders were made is still in full force."

"With this situation existing, the convention of the United Mine Workers at Cleveland last September, decided to annul all wage contracts on November 1, and took the unprecedented step of deciding in advance of any opportunity for consultation either with the government or with the coal operators, to strike on November 1, unless satisfactory new arrangements should be made."

Without any expression from the workers themselves, the organization promulgated a demand for a 60 per cent increase in wages, a six-hour day and a five-day week and authorized a strike to be effective November 1, before the demands were even presented to the operators. The demand for a new wage agreement covered only a part of the coal fields, but the strike order was sent broadcast to workers in other fields where operators had been given no opportunity to even consider demands for increased wages or decreased hours. All this has been done while the miners in every field, through their right of collective bargaining, had entered into a solemn contract with the operators, fixing wages and hours for a definite period which has not yet expired. The operators upon the instigation of the president, indicated their willingness to negotiate and arbitrate providing the strike is deferred, while the miners rejected the president's request for arbitration as a means of settlement and refused to defer the strike.

"Some of the wage contracts were made with the sanction of the federal government, operating through the fuel administration, to run during the continuation of the war until April 1, 1920. Many others, however, ran until a time still in the future without regard for the continuation of the war. While it is perfectly plain that the war is still on and that contract running until its conclusion is still in force, whatever weight may be given to the argument that the successful operation of the war no longer requires such contracts, it has no application whatever to the large number of such contracts which expire at a fixed date without regard for the war period. The armistice did not end the war and the courts in many cases have held that the war emergency statutes are still in force; the same rule must apply to war emergency contracts. The congress has held to this position so late as October 22, when an act of congress was approved making even more effective the food and fuel control act."

To Renew Restrictions "The suspension of the restrictions as to the price of coal is not necessarily permanent and conditions warrant a renewal of these restrictions at (Continued On Page Two)

CALL MEET OF UNION CHIEFS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—Fundamental principles, upon which organized labor may combat "grave dangers affecting the very foundation of its structure," are to be formulated at a conference of union chiefs in Washington, December 13.

Formal call of the conference today was sent to the union leaders over the country. It was signed by the members of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and the chiefs of the railroad brotherhood, who explained that the farmers' representatives who sat with these union officials Saturday did not feel that they had authority to sign the call.

However, it was stated that the National Farmers' organizations now in session or soon to meet would be invited to send delegates with full power to act for these organizations. It is the purpose of the union leaders to form an alliance with the farmers' organizations for the carrying out of the campaign which will be mapped out.

Regarding purposes of the conference, the call said that it was "imperative" that labor's representatives adopt a program "which the wage earners will accept in performing their duties as citizens and at the same time maintaining the right of free men in order to conserve human interest and welfare."

## CABINET MOVES SWIFTLY TO MEET NEW EMERGENCY

Effect Of Proposed Strike Would Be More Deadly On Life Of Nation Than An Invading Army, Declares Former Fuel Administrator

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The government moved swiftly tonight to meet the nation-wide coal strike ordered for Saturday. Refusal of the miners' organization at Indianapolis to withdraw the order calling out half a million men brought instant announcement that drastic action would be taken to keep the mines in operation.

Every resource of the government, in the words of Attorney General Palmer, will be used to prevent the "national disaster," certain to follow the stoppage of work.

Adequate police protection, with troops as a last resort, if necessary, will be given those men desiring to remain at work.

Reports from government agents show that a big part of the miners ordered to quit work want to stay on the jobs.

Rights of the public will be protected through revival of price control regulations. This means an early drop in the price of soft coal and gives assurance against profiteering.

As to those miners who go on strike and thereby curtail production of the food and fuel control act with its recently added criminal penalties of fine and imprisonment will be enforced without regard to persons. This attitude of the government, made clear, does not affect the right of workers to strike for redress of grievances in other cases.

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## BELGIAN RULERS VISIT TOMB OF G. WASHINGTON

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—Belgium's monarchs today paid homage to the memory of Washington. At peaceful Mount Vernon, overlooking the placid Potomac, King Albert placed a wreath upon the sarcophagus of the nation's first chief executive. The ceremony was simple but none the less deeply impressive.

Landing first from the barges which carried them from the presidential yacht Mayflower, Vice-President Marshall, the members of the cabinet and their wives had preceded the Belgians upon the walk which leads to the tomb, awaiting the coming of the king. Albert led the royal party, followed by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Leopold.

The king uncovered as he approached the red brick structure. They lifted the huge wreath of yellow and white cypresses, stepped to the gate, bowed at the entrance and stepped within. He placed the flowers gently upon the granite slab, bowed again, this time more deeply and stepped backward from the portal. Queen and prince then made obeisance before the sarcophagus. There was no other ceremony.

The trip down the river was one of the memorable events of the Belgian's American tour. When the motor cars carrying the king and his party entered the navy yard, a gun barked the presidential salute and the standard of Belgium was hoisted as the king stepped aboard. A bugle sounded taps and the band played the "Star Spangled Banner" while the military members of the party stood at attention.

As the Mayflower dropped anchor abreast Mount Vernon, a bugle sounded taps and the band played the "Star Spangled Banner" while the military members of the party stood at attention.

King Albert and the men of his party will motor tomorrow morning to Annapolis to inspect the naval academy. Queen Elizabeth will go to Baltimore to visit the Johns Hopkins hospital and the Red Cross hospital for the blind.

## Flames Entomb 21 Miners—All Are Believed Lost

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] AMSTERDAM, Ohio, Oct. 29.—With flames spreading back toward the 21 miners entrapped in the north passage of the No. 2 mine of the Youghiogheny and Ohio Coal company, mine officials tonight felt no hope of the men. Rescue parties could remain in the mine only a few minutes because of the intense heat and smoke.

Four American-born workmen were reported to be among the miners entombed when an electric generator operating a fan exploded and set fire to the wood braces, according to company officials. Flames started 200 feet from the elevator shaft, it was stated.

Partly suffocated and his clothing and hands burned, a trip driver emerged from the burning mine early tonight. He related how he lay on the floor of a mine car and his mule pulled him to the shaft.

A huge water tank was emptied into the shaft.

A crowd of more than 1,000 men, women and children thronged the mine entrance tonight, eager for any word as to the condition of the men back of the flames.

## Nine Die When Fast S. P. Train Goes Into Ditch

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire] LOS ANGELES, Oct. 29.—Nine persons were killed and forty injured when Southern Pacific train number 58, southbound, was wrecked near Acton at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon, according to a telephone message received here from Constable D. Hunter at Acton.

The cause of the wreck was undetermined early tonight, but according to railway officials it occurred on a ten degree curve and on a sharp down grade. The engine, tender, two baggage cars and five day coaches went over the embankment, tearing down telegraph and telephone lines. Three standard sleeping cars, a diner and a tourist car, composing the remainder of the train, remained on the track.

First information of the wreck reached railway officials here through Conductor Alexander Cameron who caught an automobile and rode to the nearest telephone at Acton, two and a half miles distant from the scene of the accident.

Among the killed were H. J. Fielder, engineer, Los Angeles, and L. P. Force, fireman, Mojave.

At 7 o'clock it had been learned definitely that at least six passengers had been killed, but as work of clearing away the debris was proceeding slowly it was not possible to ascertain the number of those killed.

The relief train bringing passengers here has approximately 40 injured persons aboard.

The passengers mainly were from San Francisco and northern California points. They had gone south on a "stub" train to a cave-in tunnel on the Tehachapi mountain, being transferred around the cave-in in automobiles and were on their way to southern destinations.

The dead include: Frank Feidler, engineer, San Fernando; L. P. Force, fireman, Los Angeles; George Fairington, address unknown; Paul L. Matson, Lakewood, Ohio. One unidentified man.

A partial list of the injured follows: Martin Fama, Hannibal, Ohio; John Cochran, Zanesville, Georgia; Santos Padilla, 1402 1/2 El Paso St., El Paso, Texas; H. H. Brown, Captiva, N. C.; Tom Fuler, Oya, Pa.; Hollis Shalke, Butte, Mont.; Jesus Rico, Churruar, Mich.; Mrs. Annie Malbaum, 601 Jones Ave., San Antonio, Texas.

## Notice To All Cotton Growers

The Republican has arranged for a daily report on prices paid for long staple cotton at local gins. This report will be found with the regular financial and market report news.

THE Smoking men like a good fresh cigar, so when you go to buy your cigars and want to locate a sign stand that handles a staple line of goods, let the Republican Business Directory be your guide. Whatever you may be in market for, just read the Republican's Classified Business Directory and you will find it will be of service to you.

Watch This Space, It Will Be of Interest To You

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Cigars—Drinks

WHITE RIBBON BEER On draught—Best staple line of cigars. MACK'S CIGAR STAND 40 West Adams

The Republican Classified Business Directory can be a help to you each day

## FINAL COVENANT REVISION GOES INTO SCRAPHEAP

Proposal By Sen. Moses to Equalize Voting Power Of Great Britain And U. S. Defeated By Vote Of 47 to 36—Make Effort To Eliminate Labor Section

WASHINGTON, Oct. 29.—The forty-six amendments attached to the peace treaty passed into history today when the last survivor, a proposal by Senator Moses, republican, New Hampshire, to revise voting strength in the league of nations, was defeated in the senate, 47 to 36.

The senate then upset two more proposals to revise the treaty preamble, a reference to the deity, was laid on the table by a vote of 57 to 27. The other, sponsored by Senator Johnson, republican, California, as a new solution for voting inequality in the league, was killed, 47 to 36.

World Eliminate Labor Section At adjournment, however, the effort to hasten final action had been brought up against an obstacle which seemed likely to prevent further progress for several days.

Tomorrow a determined group of senators will launch a fight to eliminate the labor section, opening a debate which will last, leaders expect, for a week. The battle is expected to be the more spirited because it is regarded as holding out whatever hope remains of winning any amendment into the treaty.

Nine republicans joined the democrats in overthrowing the Moses amendment, which provided that none of the British dominions should vote in any league controversy directly affecting any of them. Three democrats voted with the republicans supporting it. On the Johnson amendment, proposed as a substitute for the one rejected last week, the lineup was the same as on the original proposal, the only changes in the record vote being due to absentees and pairs. Most of the republican leaders failed to defeat the Sherman amendment.

Imperils American Labor The greater part of the day's debate related to subjects not directly under consideration. The labor section got the biggest share of attention. Senator La Follette, republican, Wisconsin, centering discussion about it with a three-hour speech assailing the proposed international labor organization as filled with political intrigue.

During consideration of Senator Sherman's amendment, the debate got into the realm of literature and religion. Mr. Sherman, declaring Voltaire would have rejoiced to see the collection of "godless men" gathered at Versailles, and Senator Lodge, republican, Massachusetts, replying with Macbeth's exclamation, "I can say 'God bless us!'" it would be a travesty, said Mr. Lodge, to invoke the divine blessing on such a treaty.

Opposing the amendment, Senator Thomas, democrat, Colorado, said if the chaplain's daily prayer in the senate chamber had accomplished any improvement, he had been unable to persuade it. He added that he did not favor "saddening the Almighty with the sins of man." Other opponents pointed out that the American constitution had endured without containing a reference to the deity, and declared such a reference in the treaty would make trouble because of the many religions supported.

Has Never Prayed The chair was unable to control the galleries when Senator Sherman, saying he was not a member of any church, got into a tilt with Senator Robinson, democrat, Arkansas.

"I have never prayed in my life," said Senator Sherman.

"Doesn't the senator think," interjected Senator Robinson, "that it's about time to begin?"

"No," Mr. Sherman shouted, "Not at the appearance of any such antagonist as the senator from Arkansas. I can take care of him myself."

The motion to table was made by Senator Robinson after Senator Walsh, democrat, Massachusetts, had voted for several committee amendments, pleaded that senators who were consistently opposing all amendments as a matter of principle, should not be asked to go on record directly in regard to the one proposed by Senator Sherman.